



### NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in December 2023.

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental/>

View the following:

- Past newsletters
- PFAS Updates
- Presentations
- Public announcements

### CONTACT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Administrative Record Website

<https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/>

- From the “Installation List” on the left, scroll down and select “Ellsworth AFB, SD”
- If you know the AR number enter it next to “AR #” and click “Search”
- Click on the magnifying glass to open
- Numerous other search blocks can be used

## PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI) Sampling to Start in Fall 2023 in East Off-Base Area

In August 2023, the Air Force, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed a Work Plan to conduct a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) RI in the area east of Ellsworth AFB called the “East Off-Base Area” (see *Figure 1 for location*). The goal of the RI is to investigate the extent of PFAS in soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment.

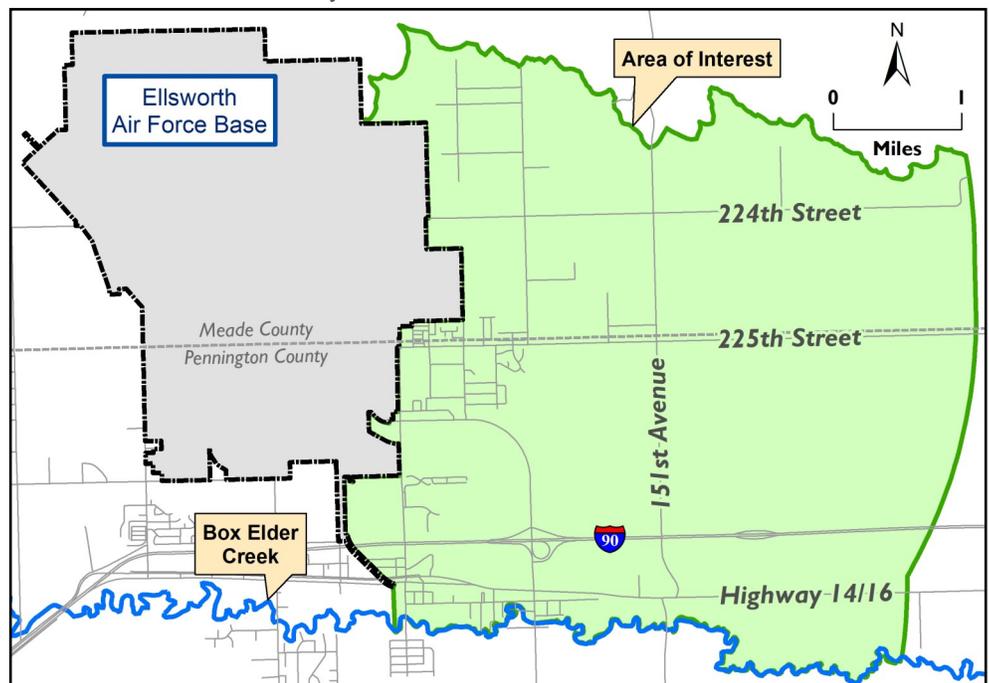
Sampling along public rights-of-way will be completed in fall 2023 and should take around 3 weeks. There will be a drill rig collecting samples adjacent to public roadways. Roads will not be closed, but there may be lane closures for short periods. The work will be conducted by an Air

Force contractor, HGL-APTIM.

The Work Plan also includes sampling at private properties scheduled to take place in spring 2024.

This fall, HGL-APTIM will be mailing out requests to 31 private property owners asking for permission to collect samples. The Air Force is respectfully asking landowners to keep an eye out for mail from HGL-APTIM and to return signed access agreements as soon as possible to prevent sampling delays. Self-addressed stamped envelopes will be included in the mailing for ease.

The Work Plan for the East Off-Base PFAS RI is AR# 8806 on the Administrative Record website (see *sidebar on left for instructions*).



**Figure 1.** Area of Interest for the PFAS Remedial Investigation in the East Off-Base Area.

## 2023 Restoration Advisory Board Interest Assessment Completed

The Air Force recently assessed interest in reestablishing the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at Ellsworth AFB through the following:

- Article in the March 2023 Restoration Newsletter;
- Public notice published in the Rapid City Journal on March 24-25, 2023;
- Presentation at the March 28, 2023 public meeting hosted by Pennington County; and
- Social media post on April 14, 2023 to the 28th Bomb Wing Command Team Facebook page.

The Air Force decided to not

reinstate the RAB based on the determination that there is not sufficient and sustained community interest because only 5 community members, representing less than 2% of the newsletter mailing list, expressed interest in reinstating the RAB. Two others indicated they did not want a RAB because they liked the public meetings hosted by Pennington County and the quarterly newsletters.

The community is kept informed through this newsletter, the Administrative Record website, the Environmental Matters Website, and annual public meetings hosted by

Pennington County. The Air Force receives valuable feedback from the community as a result of these efforts.

The Air Force will review community interest in reestablishing the RAB at least every 24 months while environmental restoration activities are still ongoing. The next assessment will occur in 2025.

The June 2023 Memorandum for Record documenting the biennial reevaluation for a RAB is AR# 8803 on the Administrative Record website (*see sidebar on the left of the reverse page for instructions*).

## Ellsworth AFB Hosts Rutgers University

In June 2023, the Air Force hosted Rutgers University researchers at the former fire training area at Ellsworth AFB.

The goal of the research project, funded by EPA's Office of Research and Development, is to determine if shallow PFAS sources can be detected using non-invasive geophysical methods. Geophysics has the potential to better characterize PFAS sources at lower costs than traditional methods using drill rigs to collect samples to send to a laboratory.



Rutgers University graduate student Ethan Siegenthaler gathers data from spectral induced polarization lines on June 23, 2023.

For more information on this study, please contact Dr. Dale Werkema at (541) 867-4048 or [Werkema.d@epa.gov](mailto:Werkema.d@epa.gov).

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